

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 33769 ACTION ATHENS LISBON
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DUBLIN VIENNA MADRID NATO BRUSSELS GENEVA 13 FEBRUARY.

QUOTE

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TAGS: PFOR PO

SUBJECT: SENATOR KENNEDY ON PORTUGAL

FYI FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT ON PORTUGAL
BY SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY WHICH WAS RELEASED FEB. 12
"LAST APRIL 25, THE PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL EMERGED FROM 48
YEARS OF REPRESSIVE RULE, AND BEGAN THE END OF 500 YEARS
OF PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM IN AFRICA. MANY AMERICANS
WELCOMED THE OVERTHROW OF THE CAETANO REGIME IN LISBON,
AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PORTUGAL WOULD AGAIN ASSUME
ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT
OF EUROPE -- AND THE WORLD.

LAST NOVEMBER, I WAS PLEASED TO VISIT PORTUGAL, AND
MEET WITH MANY OF ITS LEADERS -- FROM SEVERAL POLITICAL
PARTIES, THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT, AND THE PRESS. WHILE
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THERE, I EXPRESSED MY OWN SUPPORT FOR THE FUTURE OF POR-

TUGUESE DEMOCRACY, AND THE CONCERN OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT THIS EXPERIMENT SHOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO SUCCEED.

PORTUGAL FACES THE DIFFICULT TASK OF CREATING FREE INSTITUTIONS AFTER NEARLY FIVE DECADES OF REPRESSIVE RULE. THIS WILL NOT BE EASY. IT MEANS RENEWING A TRADITION OF PLURALISTIC INSTITUTIONS; GAINING A SENSE OF TOLERANCE FOR POLITICAL DIFFERENCE AND DIVERSITY; CREATING A FREE

PRESS AND THE RIGHT TO FREE EXPRESSION; AND DEVELOPING THE SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES THAT WILL PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC THOUGHT AND PRACTICE FOR THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

PORTUGAL'S LEADERS COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO THIS COURSE: DESPITE ITS DIFFICULTIES, AND DESPITE SOME FEARS THAT THE PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL WOULD AGAIN BE DENIED THEIR RIGHT TO A GOVERNMENT OF LAWS AND LIBERTY.

IN THE UNITED STATES, WE WERE PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED BY THE PROMPT ACTIONS OF PORTUGAL'S NEW LEADERS IN TURNING FROM THAT COUNTRY'S COLONIAL PAST. THEY DESERVE PRAISE FOR DISPLAYING COURAGE AND DETERMINATION AT A TIME OF DIFFICULT CHANGE. THEY HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY CAN WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA TO BRING ABOUT RAPID INDEPENDENCE FOR THESE AFRICAN COLONIES. GUINEA-BISSAU IS NOW INDEPENDENT AND THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS. INDEPENDENCE FOR MOZAMBIQUE, SAO TOME AND THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS WILL SOON FOLLOW; AND AN AGREEMENT HAS RECENTLY BEEN REACHED ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE REMAINING PORTUGUESE FORCES.

I WILL CONTINUE MY EFFORTS, WITH OTHERS, TO PROVIDE WHAT HELP THAT WE, AS AMERICANS, CAN GIVE. AND I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL WILL BE ABLE TO

WORK OUT THEIR DESTINY, WITHIN A DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK:

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SO THAT INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES, FREE SPEECH, AND A FREE PRESS WILL BE RESPECTED;

THAT THERE WILL BE FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND SUPPORT FOR PLURALISM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND PARTIES;

THAT THE ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL

BE HELD AS SCHEDULED AND PROVIDE THE FIRST ELECTED
BASIS FOR DEVELOPING THE NEW PORTUGUESE POLITICAL
DEMOCRACY;

AND THAT "A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM" WILL SUSTAIN THE
PORTUGUESE PEOPLE IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES" INGERSOLL
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